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## Bear Mountain Lodge and Preserve Hightown

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The Bear Mountain Lodge and Preserve is a lodging and educational facility with a goal of making a viable contribution to sustainability, conservation, energy efficiency and environmental education.



### GREEN ACTIVITIES

☒ **Optional Linen Service.** Virginia Green Lodging facilities must have some sort of system in place that allows guests to not have their sheets and towels changed every day. This facility pledges that they:

- Have signage in each guest room explaining the linen reuse procedures
- Purchase water and energy efficient washers and dryers
- Use non-phosphate, non-toxic and biodegradable laundry detergents
- Line dry linens whenever possible

☒ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Virginia Green Lodging facilities must recycle and are highly encouraged to maintain a comprehensive recycling program. This facility pledges that they:

- Provide the opportunity for guests to recycle: glass bottles, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, steel cans, newspaper
- Have recycling bins located:
- Also recycle office paper, toner cartridges, cardboard

*Kitchen (or meetings/events)*

- Compost food waste and other compostables

*Dining room (or meetings/events)*

- Do not use any disposable containers, dishware, cutlery, or cups
- Use water pitchers to minimize the use of single-use bottles

*Restrooms*

- Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
- Purchase recycled-content paper towels and toilet paper

Office

- Reuse scrap paper for notes
- Make double-sided photo copies and avoid making extra photocopies

Building and grounds

- Use green cleaning products that are dispensed in bulk
- Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles

- ☒ **Water Conservation.** The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping. This facility pledges that they:

Activities indoors

- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks

Activities outdoors

- Have an effective landscape management plan which utilizes native species and minimizes lawn areas
- Have an effective storm water management plan which includes rain gardens and minimization of impervious areas (paving, concrete, etc.)
- Have installed cisterns
- Have installed rain barrels
- Maintain vegetative buffers around streams and ponds

- ☒ **Energy Conservation.** The facility must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives. This facility pledges that they:

Heating and cooling

- Have individual thermostats for each room/area
- Have installed ceiling fans

Lighting

- Use natural lighting
- Have installed compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and in canned lighting

- ☒ **Green Events Package.** The facility must offer a "green" or "environmentally-friendly" package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided. This facility pledges that they:
- Promote the availability of "green meetings/conferences" in marketing packages

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For more information on the Bear Mountain Lodge and Preserve see [www.mountain-retreat.com](http://www.mountain-retreat.com) or contact Thomas Brody at [bearmountain@htcnet.org](mailto:bearmountain@htcnet.org) or (540) 468-2700.

**Virginia Green** is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. *Virginia Green* is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation. The program

has established “core activities” specific to each sector of tourism; these practices are the minimum requirements for participation in the program, but encourages participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations. **Virginia Green Partners** are committing to help support the program and encourage their customers to join or do business with Virginia Green-certified participants. Although not necessarily tourism facilities themselves, Partners are expected to practice green activities in their own facilities as well. For more information on **Virginia Green**, see <http://www.deq.state.va.us/p2/viriniagreen/homepage.html> or go to [www.viriniagreentravel.org](http://www.viriniagreentravel.org).

